

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2007. Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1 – 9, 11 – 14, 16, and 18 are pending and under consideration. Claim amendments are discussed in detail below. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 1 and 14 are amended to more particularly point out the subject matter of the invention, In particular Claim 1 is amended to include features recited in original claim 10. Claim 14 is amended to include features recited in original claims 15 and 17. Claims 10, 15, 17, and 19 – 20 are cancelled. Claims 11, 16 and 18 are amended to change their dependency given cancellation of certain claims.

With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicant has not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner states that in his view Claims 10 – 13 and 17 – 18 are directed to allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 14 to include features of these claims, thus conforming the pending claims to this subject matter.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 9 under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Nanbu et al (US Patent 6,414,277).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite limitations of claim 10 which are indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, and submits that the amended claims are patentable over the cited references.

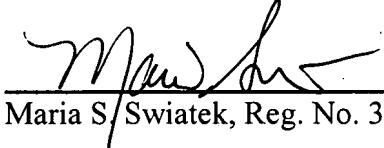
Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejects Claim 5, and Claims 14 – 16, and 19 – 20 under 35 U.S.C 103§(a) as being unpatentable over Nanbu in combination with Berg (U.S. patent 5,313,048) and over Nanbu in combination with Lecouras et al (U.S. Patent 5,900,177), respectively.

Applicant has amended claim 14 to recite limitations of claim 17 which are indicated as allowable by the Examiner, and additionally the limitations of intervening claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, and submits that the amended claims are patentable over the cited references.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that Claims 1 – 9, 11 – 14, 16, and 18 are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore respectfully requested. If any matters can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below. No fees beyond those being submitted concurrently herewith are believed due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fees, or credit any overpayment, to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (Order No. 067538-5190-US).

Respectfully submitted,



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